



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,628	01/15/2004	Steven F. Mastoris	100201138-2	1210

7590 07/15/2005  
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Ak

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/759,628

Applicant(s)

MASTORIS ET AL.

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-40 and 45-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 32-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37, 40, 45, 46, 48 and 49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 38 and 47 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

The finality of the previous Office action is withdrawn. PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 37, 40, 45, 46, 48 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lwee et al. (US 5,106,313) in view of Seong (US 5,242,311).

Lwee discloses a protective cover comprising: at least one connector (at 50) for receiving pins of a pin connector of a backplane, wherein the connector is not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements; a handle (52) extending from the at least one connector for installing or removing the cover; and clips (on each side, see Fig.3) extending from the cove for clipping the cover to the pin connector. Lwee discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the receptacles. Seong teaches a cover (16) having receptacles (30) that are not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements. This structure ensures correct alignment and prevents tampering of the pins. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the connector of Lwee with receptacles, as taught by Seong, to ensure correct alignment and prevent tampering of the pins.

Regarding claim 40, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made form the receptacles arranged in conformance with one of various known standards, such as a CPCI standard.

Regarding claim 45, Lwee discloses a protective cover comprising: at least one connector (at 50) for receiving pins of a pin connector of a backplane, wherein the connector is not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements; a planar member (52) extending from the at least one connector. Lwee discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the receptacles. Seong teaches a cover (16) having receptacles (30) that are not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements. This structure ensures correct alignment and prevents tampering of the pins. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the connector of Lwee with receptacles, as taught by Seong, to ensure correct alignment and prevent tampering of the pins.

Regarding claims 46 and 49, please note that the recitation that an element is "sufficient" to perform a given function is not a positive limitation but only requires that ability to so perform.

Regarding claim 48, Lwee discloses the planar member being integral with the connector member.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 32-36 are allowed.

Claims 38-39, 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Felix O. Figueroa  
Art Unit 2833